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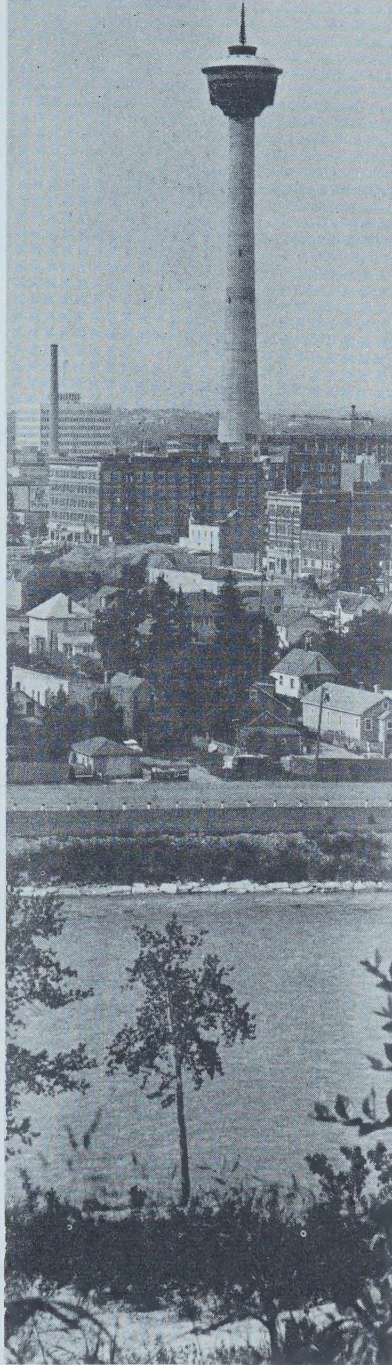
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# environment



How Calgarians  
feel about pollution  
in their city

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# POLLUTION IN CALGARY

## a public attitude survey's findings

Most Calgarians believe that people who litter the streets should be fined and they think litter wardens should be hired by the city to catch them.

After these attitudes were revealed by a recent Ecoscalgary pollution survey, the research group suggested that perhaps the commissioners who give parking tickets could have the additional duty of writing litter tickets and thus save the city the cost of hiring special personnel.

It's just an idea, one of many suggested by Ecoscalgary, a university student group which polled about 500 Calgarians to find out how they want their city cleaned up.

With the help of an Opportunities For Youth grant, people were selected at random from the 1970 Henderson City Directory and asked about 100 questions related to ecology. The results are published in a 250-page report called Pollution in Calgary.

The answers revealed a cross-section of attitudes aimed at controlling petty litterers and industries. Many showed people want government to step in with stricter regulations and assume more leadership in the battle against pollution.

Almost 97 per cent of people polled in the survey were in favor of strict regulations to make sure all industrial waste is pre-treated before it enters the atmosphere or streams in the area.

Seventy-five per cent agreed that a director of pollution control should be hired by the city to enforce such regulations to supervise pollution inspectors, initiate prosecution against offenders, conduct preventive education and control advertising of ecologically harmful activities.

"We feel that the percentage of people in favor of such recommendations indicates the attitudes of the city as a whole," says Jane McGregor, a spokesman for Ecoscalgary.

"The people interviewed were selected at random, so the results of the survey should be valid."

Another strong recommendation - 90 per cent were in favor - was that the banks of the Bow and Elbow Rivers and Fish Creek, Nose Creek, and Beddington Creek be protected from further industrial development; and that existing developments along the river be relocated and the land reserved for a series of parks.

Although concern for Calgary's waterways is higher than ever before, a paradox regarding pollution of the Bow River was revealed in the survey. About 96 per cent said towns and industries along the river upstream are responsible for the condition of the water when it gets to Calgary.

But only 45 per cent agreed that Calgary is responsible for the condition of the river downstream. However, 68 per cent agreed there is a pollution problem in the river downstream, and 73 per cent said they were in favor of increased taxes to help pay for better sewage treatment to improve the river's condition.

Ecoscalgary toured many of the major industries in Calgary and generally found that they are becoming more pollution conscious and are trying to improve operations. But one further river pollution problem they brought to light is that Calgary's cattle feedlots are a large source of untreated excrement.

"Feedlots are an animal slum, without a sewer system. The waste is bound to find its way by run-off into the river..." the report says.

The survey also showed that Calgarians' views on pollution depend on the area of the city in which they live. The people interviewed were divided into groups according to where they live - near the airport or in residential, industrial or urban (downtown) areas.

People living downtown were more in favor of banning the use of cars in the downtown core than were suburban residents.

Those living in quiet residential areas were not so concerned about noise pollution as those who lived near the airport. Residents around the airport were far more concerned about increased housing development there than were people living in other areas.

However, even though people around the airport were concerned about noise pollution, they weren't as willing to pay for soundproofing as were people in quieter areas.

"Another paradox," Jane McGregor says. "It could be that people around the airport don't think sound-proofing is the answer to their problems."

Very few people disagreed that pollution damages health: disagreements came from areas where industries are not located. But those living in industrial areas and downtown all strongly agreed that health is deteriorating because of pollution.

Other views that came to light in the survey:

- \* 82 per cent were in favor of separating their own garbage for recycling purposes;
- \* 64 per cent said the government is justified in putting a company out of business if it exceeds water and air pollution standards;
- \* 75 per cent agreed cars should be tested for pollution regularly;
- \* Only 41 per cent said they would be willing to take a bus to work; 60 per cent said they were in favor of rapid transit; 75 per cent said the present system should be upgraded;
- \* 78 per cent said bicycles should have separate traffic lanes;
- \* 76 per cent agreed there is excessive packaging of consumer products, causing a disposal problem.

Ecoscalgary summed up by saying that a three-point program for pollution control is needed in the city.

More education of the public, especially of school children who will develop attitudes as they grow up, is a high priority. It should be coupled, Ecoscalgary says, with strict government pollution control and with personal pollution controls adhered to by all Calgarians.

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# IN BRIEF

The federal department of the environment has established a \$200,000 fund to support research into the reduction of air pollution by pulp and paper operations.

In announcing the program, environment minister Jack Davis said the fund would be administered by the Canadian forestry service under the guidance of a government-industry co-ordinating committee set up last year to develop a five-year program for water pollution abatement research in the pulp and paper industry.

*The Alberta government proposes to acquire mineral interests in the foothills granted by the federal government before it transferred control of sub-surface rights to the province.*

*Environment Minister W.J. Yurko told The Edmonton Journal in an interview that free-hold holdings by a number of companies in the foothills region, particularly in the Mount Rundle area, "are fairly extensive".*

*Mainly involved by the transfer would be Canmore Mines Ltd., which operates a strip mine in that region.*

*The takeover is proposed in draft provisions of the new surface reclamation act that Mr. Yurko proposes to introduce at the 1972 spring session of the legislature.*

Nobel prize-winner Norman E. Borlaug assailed environmentalists Monday for trying to block the use of such chemicals as DDT which he said were vital to adequate food production.

"If agriculture is denied their use because of unwise legislation that is now being promoted by a powerful group of hysterical lobbyists," Borlaug said, "then the world would be doomed not by chemical poisoning but from starvation."

In an 18,000-word paper to the governing conference of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the American scientist warned:

"Recalling that 50 per cent of the present world population is undernourished and that an even larger percentage, perhaps 65 per cent, is mainourished, no room is left for complacency."

Measures to protect certain natural and archaeological features of the Suffield Military Reserve in Alberta from damage by British troop manoeuvres beginning next spring, were announced in Ottawa.

Approximately 20 per cent of the area originally assigned to the training will be placed out of bounds completely or limited to exercises in which tanks and other tracked vehicles will not be used. British officials have agreed to the conditions.

The British training involves groups of approximately 600 to 1000 soldiers flying over from the United Kingdom for three-week periods between May and November each year, for a 10-year period.

Conventional weapons, including tank-guns, artillery and anti-tank weapons, will be fired, and simulated "battle runs" conducted.

Objections to the planned use of part of the 1000-square mile Suffield area centred on possible dangers to what is a relatively undisturbed part of the Canadian prairies harboring some rare examples of plant and animal life. It was suggested that the site be preserved as a grassland national park.

The protective measures are based on studies and recommendations by Canadian Wildlife Services, a branch of the department of the environment.

Evidence of dangerous uses of asbestos blamed for some respiratory diseases and cancers, has been uncovered by the Edmonton-based group, Save Tomorrow - Oppose Pollution.

The Canadian study includes a warning that asbestos powder is possibly being used in some Edmonton classrooms and that asbestos miners and construction workers are inhaling large amounts.

The study, which is based on investigations by STOP researchers Richard Gregory, Karen Molgaard and Mary Van Stolk calls for federal and provincial regulations governing the use of asbestos. Some precautionary measures are in effect now, but these are inadequate, STOP feels.

The Alberta Fish and Game Association has called for immediate legislative action regarding the long-term use of Crown lands.

Association President Tom O'Keefe said in a news release that the association believes an inventory of all public lands should be undertaken to provide for their proper use, preservation and restoration.

The provincial government should also be encouraged to acquire more land in settled areas and public control of shorelines and river frontages should be guaranteed to ensure that future needs for recreation and wildlife habitat can be met, the association said.

European and Japanese manufacturers are designing a \$400 automobile that can be thrown away in a year.

One European builder "has already subjected a prototype to extensive tests," says the Netherlands magazine, Europa.

The magazine quoted Antonio Gottardi of Turin, Italy, an auto executive, as saying his factory would aim at a 9,000-mile life for the revolutionary car. He said the cost would be about \$300 with a selling price of around \$400.

*First the no-phosphate detergent, now recycling is raising health problems.*

*The Food and Drug Administration of U.S.A. has discovered a toxic chemical in cardboard being used to package dry foods for super-markets.*

*The chemical, called polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), has been found in a wide range of packaging material used for cereals, crackers, noodles and similar dry-foods.*

*It has been traced to 'recycled' paper and probably came from carbon paper or ink. Since 1967 scientists have found PCB nearly everywhere - in animals, rivers, milk and food. It seems to have replaced DDT as the chemical of the year.*

Test projects are under way, which could lead to the establishment of an exclusive game preserve in the coalfields of southern Saskatchewan.

Since the 1930s, the orphaned lands left by coalfield strip mining have been major concerns of mining, department of natural resources, wildlife and Saskatchewan Power Corporation officials.

A drawback to total restoration of the 12 to 14 mined out sections has been excessive costs on land, considered mainly marginal, and purchased for the abundant underground coal beds.

In recent years, fish and game officials have shown interest in the establishment of a game preserve on the lands which would require considerably less outlay than other types of restoration.

Other officials have been investigating economical methods of levelling and reseeding rougher leavings along main roads in the Estevan-Bienfait areas as well as future diggings. Present projects are costing an estimated \$100 to \$200 an acre.

The U.S. government's environmental protection agency has announced an experimental automobile engine that "represents a breakthrough in emissions control technology and means that the truly clean car is not as far away as many people thought".

But a major developer of the "stratified charge" engine, the Ford Motor Company, said that the claims were exaggerated and that the experimental engine was years from production - if it can be perfected, which is not certain.

*Regina city council has instructed police to being enforcing the refuse disposal and anti-littering bylaw by issuing a \$2 ticket to offenders instead of laying charges.*

*The action is aimed at anyone who discards or deposits any 'type of refuse or like material' in any public place which includes streets, lanes, boulevards, bridges, watercourses, parks or school yards.*

*Also, with the exception of parking tickets, no one shall deposit or attach to any parked vehicle any material whatsoever. This includes handbills, circulars and other advertising material.*

*The bylaw also covers shopping carts, bicycles, baby carriages and other such articles that might pose a nuisance or obstruction to the public.*

## PRACTICING WHAT WE PREACH

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WE HOPE IT CATCHES ON.

# NEWS from the Alberta Department of the Environment

The Alberta Environmental Research Trust Act became effective December 27, 1971.

The objects of the Trust are to seek and receive gifts and bequests and to administer these for the purpose of provincial expansion of applied and fundamental research relative to environmental improvement that might not otherwise be readily met out of public funds.

The Honorable W.J. Yurko, Minister of the Environment, has also announced the appointment of seven members to the Board of Trustees for the Trust. They are David G. Wood, Calgary; Robert H. Scammell, Red Deer; Mrs. Betty Mitchell, Edmonton; Dr. E.E. Daniel, Edmonton; Dr. R.A. Ritter, Calgary; Bud Conway, Edmonton; and Bob Neufeld, Grande Prairie. Chairman is Dr. E.E. Ballantyne, Deputy Minister of the Environment.

*Four applicants have been selected by the Department of the Environment to conduct odor and noise surveys in Calgary and Edmonton.*

*The four were selected from 61 applications. The noise survey in Edmonton will be conducted by Bolstad Engineering, and in Calgary by the University of Calgary.*

*The Edmonton odor survey will be conducted by Stanley Associates Engineering, and in Calgary by Strong, Lamb and Nelson.*

*Mr. Yurko notes that by having these surveys conducted, the Department will be assured of receiving highly qualified, unbiased reports on the noise and odor situations in the two cities. Once these reports have been received and analyzed, the Department can then draw up plans to combat existing and potential problems.*

An engineering study of the environmental consequences of thermal power production on Lake Wabamun will be undertaken for the Department of the Environment.

Mr. Yurko notes that the study will be conducted because the government is committed to preserving Lake Wabamun as a major recreational area, and the water quality and lake environment must be maintained at a high standard.

The study will evaluate the consequences of present and future power development on the lake. Present waste water treatment facilities will be examined to determine the degree of control, and any adverse effects of the waste water on the lake.

The economics of providing various types of cooling facilities will be examined, as well as any effects on water or air of cooling towers or ponds.

Water contaminants and their sources will be identified, and recommendations given for remedial measures. This will include contaminants from industry, towns, cottages, summer villages and agriculture.

The study will also determine the feasibility of pumping water from the North Saskatchewan River for cooling purposes and lake level stabilization.

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Honorable W.J. Yurko  
Minister

Dr. E.E. Ballantyne  
Deputy Minister

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